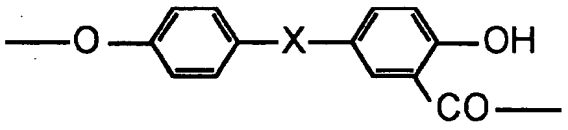
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

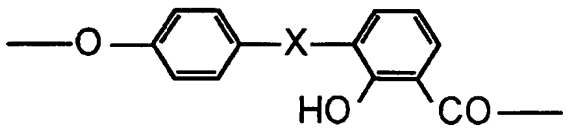
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A branched aromatic polycarbonate produced by transesterification and having a viscosity average molecular weight of at least 16,000, wherein the amount of structural units of the following formula (1) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 2,000 to 50,000 wtppm, and the amounts of structural units of the following formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are within a range of from 30 to 10,000 wtppm, respectively:

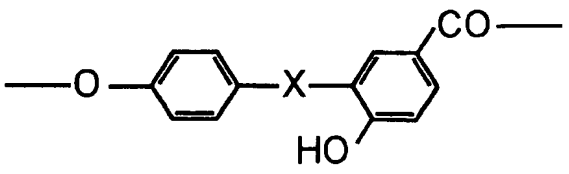


(1)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-,



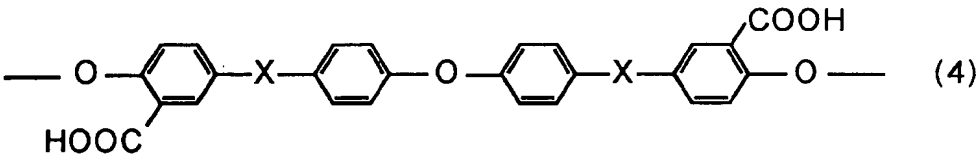
(2)



(3)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $-SO_2-$;

wherein the total amount of structural units of the following formulae (4) and (5) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 10 to 10,000 wtppm:



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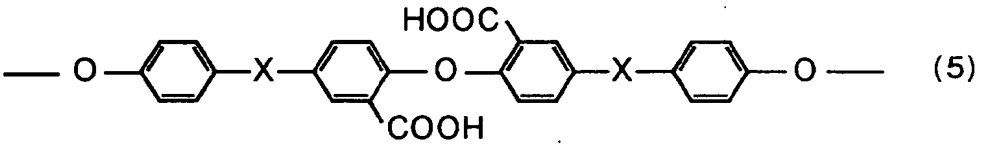


(5)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $-SO_2-$.

2. (Canceled)

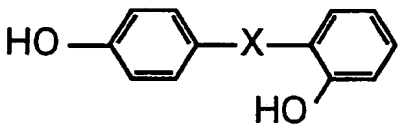
3. (Original) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of the structural units of the formula (1) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 3,000 to 10,000 wtppm.

4. (Original) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 1, wherein the amounts of the structural units of the formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are within a range of from 30 to 5,000 wtppm, respectively.

5. (Previously Presented) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 1, wherein the total amount of the structural units of the formulae (4) and (5) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 10 to 3,000 wtppm.

6. (Original) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 1, wherein the viscosity average molecular weight is at least 18,000.

7. (Original) A method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate as defined in Claim 1, which comprises reacting a carbonic acid diester with an aromatic dihydroxy compound to produce an aromatic polycarbonate, wherein an aromatic dihydroxy compound containing a 2,4'-bisphenol compound of the following formula (6) in an amount of from 100 to 50,000 wtppm is used:



(6)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-.

8. (Original) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 7, wherein the 2,4'-bisphenol compound is 2,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl-2,2-propane.

9. (Original) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 7, wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound containing the 2,4'-bisphenol compound in an amount of from 100 to 10,000 wtppm is used.

10. (Original) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 7, wherein the carbonic acid diester is diphenyl carbonate.

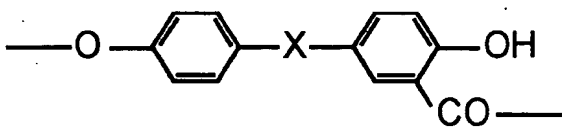
11. (Original) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 7, wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound is 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane.

12. (Original) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 7, wherein when the carbonic acid diester is reacted with the aromatic dihydroxy compound to produce an aromatic polycarbonate, an alkali metal compound and/or an alkaline earth metal compound is used as a transesterification catalyst.

13. (Original) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 12, wherein the amount of the alkali metal compound and/or the alkaline earth metal compound is from 1×10^{-8} to 1×10^{-5} per 1 mol of the aromatic dihydroxy compound.

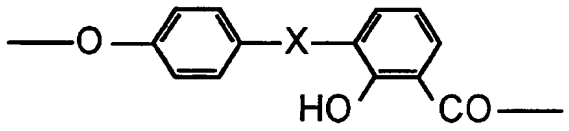
14. (Previously Presented) A branched aromatic polycarbonate produced by transesterification and having a viscosity average molecular weight of at least 16,000, wherein the amount of structural units of the following formula (1) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 3,000 to 10,000 wtppm, and the amounts of structural units of

the following formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are within a range of from 30 to 10,000 wtppm, respectively:

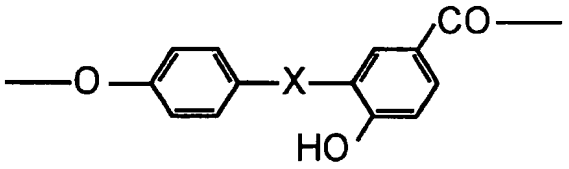


(1)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-,



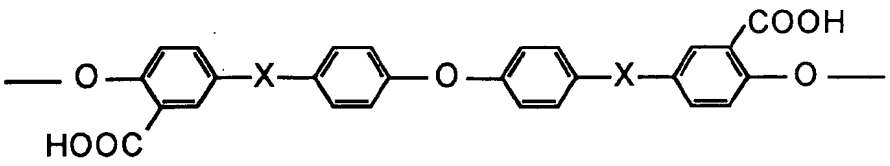
(2)



(3)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-.

15. (Previously Presented) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 14, wherein the total amount of structural units of the following formulae (4) and (5) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 10 to 10,000 wtppm:



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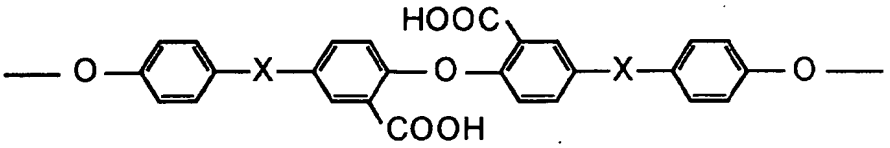


(5)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $-SO_2-$.

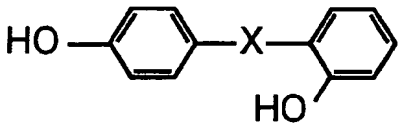
16. (Previously Presented) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 14, wherein the amounts of the structural units of the formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are within a range of from 30 to 5,000 wtppm, respectively.

17. (Previously Presented) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 15, wherein the total amount of the structural units of the formulae (4) and (5) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 10 to 3,000 wtppm.

18. (Previously Presented) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 14, wherein the viscosity average molecular weight is at least 18,000.

19. (Previously Presented) A method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate as defined in Claim 14, which comprises reacting a carbonic acid diester with an aromatic dihydroxy compound to produce an aromatic polycarbonate, wherein an aromatic

dihydroxy compound containing a 2,4'-bisphenol compound of the following formula (6) in an amount of from 100 to 50,000 wtppm is used:



(6)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-.

20. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 19, wherein the 2,4'-bisphenol compound is 2,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl-2,2-propane.

21. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 19, wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound containing the 2,4'-bisphenol compound in an amount of from 100 to 10,000 wtppm is used.

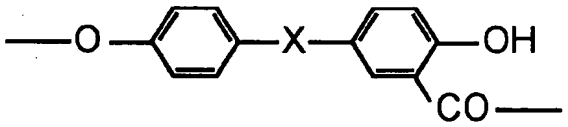
22. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 19, wherein the carbonic acid diester is diphenyl carbonate.

23. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 19, wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound is 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane.

24. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 19, wherein when the carbonic acid diester is reacted with the aromatic dihydroxy compound to produce an aromatic polycarbonate, an alkali metal compound and/or an alkaline earth metal compound is used as a transesterification catalyst.

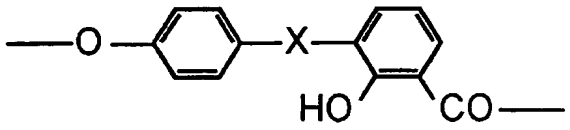
25. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 24, wherein the amount of the alkali metal compound and/or the alkaline earth metal compound is from 1×10^{-8} to 1×10^{-5} per 1 mol of the aromatic dihydroxy compound.

26. (Previously Presented) A branched aromatic polycarbonate produced by transesterification and having a viscosity average molecular weight of at least 16,000, wherein the amount of structural units of the following formula (1) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 2,000 to 50,000 wtppm, and the amounts of structural units of the following formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are within a range of from 30 to 5,000 wtppm, respectively:

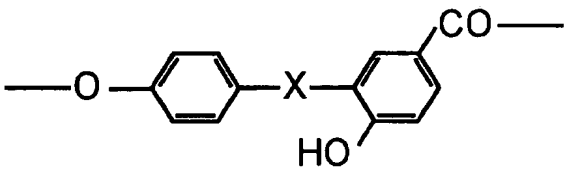


(1)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $-SO_2-$,



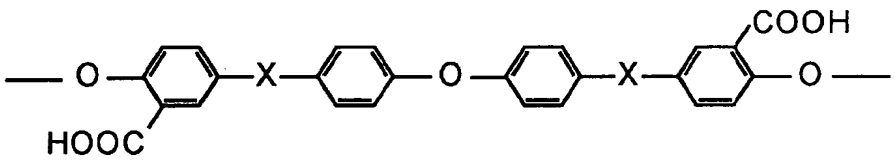
(2)



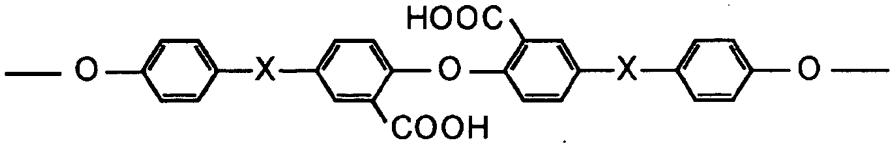
(3)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-.

27. (Previously Presented) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 26, wherein the total amount of structural units of the following formulae (4) and (5) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 10 to 10,000 wtppm:



(4)



(5)

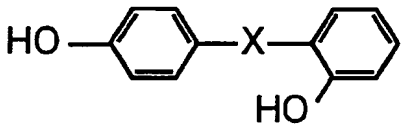
wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-.

28. (Previously Presented) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 26, wherein the amount of the structural units of the formula (1) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 3,000 to 10,000 wtppm.

29. (Previously Presented) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 27, wherein the total amount of the structural units of the formulae (4) and (5) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 10 to 3,000 wtppm.

30. (Previously Presented) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 26, wherein the viscosity average molecular weight is at least 18,000.

31. (Previously Presented) A method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate as defined in Claim 26, which comprises reacting a carbonic acid diester with an aromatic dihydroxy compound to produce an aromatic polycarbonate, wherein an aromatic dihydroxy compound containing a 2,4'-bisphenol compound of the following formula (6) in an amount of from 100 to 50,000 wtppm is used:



(6)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-.

32. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 31, wherein the 2,4'-bisphenol compound is 2,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl-2,2-propane.

33. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 31, wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound containing the 2,4'-bisphenol compound in an amount of from 100 to 10,000 wtppm is used.

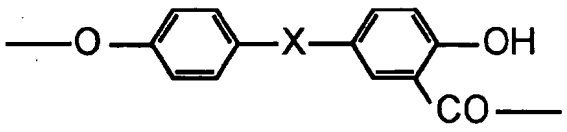
34. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 31, wherein the carbonic acid diester is diphenyl carbonate.

35. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 31, wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound is 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane.

36. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 31, wherein when the carbonic acid diester is reacted with the aromatic dihydroxy compound to produce an aromatic polycarbonate, an alkali metal compound and/or an alkaline earth metal compound is used as a transesterification catalyst.

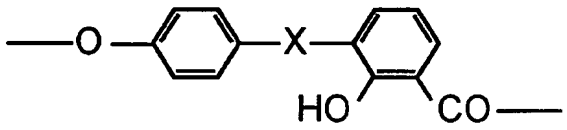
37. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 36, wherein the amount of the alkali metal compound and/or the alkaline earth metal compound is from 1×10^{-8} to 1×10^{-5} per 1 mol of the aromatic dihydroxy compound.

38. (Previously Presented) A branched aromatic polycarbonate produced by transesterification and having a viscosity average molecular weight of at least 18,000, wherein the amount of structural units of the following formula (1) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 2,000 to 50,000 wtppm, and the amounts of structural units of the following formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are within a range of from 30 to 10,000 wtppm, respectively:

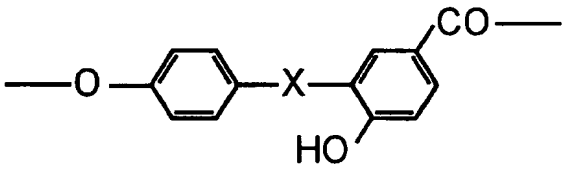


(1)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-,



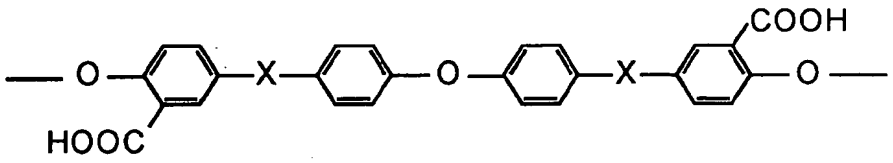
(2)



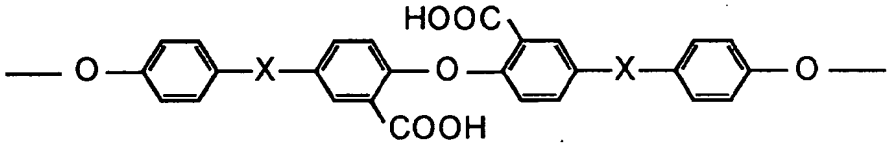
(3)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-.

39. (Previously Presented) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 38, wherein the total amount of structural units of the following formulae (4) and (5) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 10 to 10,000 wtppm:



(4)



(5)

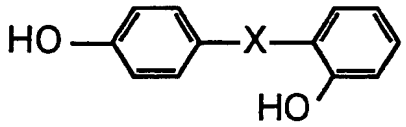
wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $-SO_2-$.

40. (Previously Presented) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 38, wherein the amount of the structural units of the formula (1) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 3,000 to 10,000 wtppm.

41. (Previously Presented) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 38, wherein the amounts of the structural units of the formulae (2) and (3) contained in its main chain are within a range of from 30 to 5,000 wtppm, respectively.

42. (Previously Presented) The branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 39, wherein the total amount of the structural units of the formulae (4) and (5) contained in its main chain is within a range of from 10 to 3,000 wtppm.

43. (Previously Presented) A method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate as defined in Claim 38, which comprises reacting a carbonic acid diester with an aromatic dihydroxy compound to produce an aromatic polycarbonate, wherein an aromatic dihydroxy compound containing a 2,4'-bisphenol compound of the following formula (6) in an amount of from 100 to 50,000 wtppm is used:



(6)

wherein X is a single bond, a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a C_{2-8} alkylidene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-15} cycloalkylidene group or a member selected from bivalent groups represented by –O-, -S-, -CO-, -SO- and $–SO_2$-.

44. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 43, wherein the 2,4'-bisphenol compound is 2,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl-2,2-propane.

45. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 43, wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound containing the 2,4'-bisphenol compound in an amount of from 100 to 10,000 wtppm is used.

46. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 43, wherein the carbonic acid diester is diphenyl carbonate.

47. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 38, wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound is 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane.

48. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 38, wherein when the carbonic acid diester is reacted with the aromatic dihydroxy compound to produce an aromatic polycarbonate, an alkali metal compound and/or an alkaline earth metal compound is used as a transesterification catalyst.

49. (Previously Presented) The method for producing the branched aromatic polycarbonate according to Claim 48, wherein the amount of the alkali metal compound and/or the alkaline earth metal compound is from 1×10^{-8} to 1×10^{-5} per 1 mol of the aromatic dihydroxy compound.